

IN THE DRAWINGS

A proposed correction to Figure 8 is submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (Amended) An automatic hot food vending machine, comprising in
2 combination:
3 ¹⁰ hopper means for holding an inventory of uniformly sized, individual refrigerated
4 or frozen portions of said food and for maintaining said inventory in a refrigerated or
5 frozen condition;
6 ²⁰ dispenser means for selectively dispensing one of said portions from said
7 inventory by gravity; *date*.
8 oven means pivottally mounted within said machine for receiving said one portion
9 from said dispenser means, for heating said portion by irradiation thereof with
10 microwave energy for a predetermined length of time, and for discharging said heated
11 one portion from said [apparatus] machine thereafter by gravity, said oven means
12 having a single door with an open position for both receiving said one portion from said
13 dispenser means and for discharging said heated one portion and a closed position for
14 heating said one portion;
15 oven orientation means for selectively rotating said oven means between a first
16 position for receiving said one portion from said dispenser means and a second
17 position for discharging said heated one portion;
18 ¹⁶⁰ changer means for receiving, counting, authenticating, and storing money
19 inserted into said machine, and for refunding counterfeit money inserted therein or
20 genuine money upon command; and

21 ¹⁰
22 control and monitor means for:
23 receiving a signal from said changer means that a predetermined amount
24 of said authenticated money has been inserted into said machine;
25 actuating said dispenser means upon receipt of said signal to dispense
26 said one portion into said oven means; and
27 activating said oven means to receive, heat, and discharge said portion
 from said machine.

1 2. (Amended) [The machine of claim 1,] An automatic hot food vending
2 machine, comprising in combination:
3 ` hopper means for holding an inventory of uniformly sized, individual refrigerated
4 or frozen portions of said food and for maintaining said inventory in a refrigerated or
5 frozen condition;
6 ` ¹⁰dispenser means for selectively dispensing one of said portions from said
7 inventory by gravity;
8 ` oven means for receiving said one portion from said dispenser means, for
9 heating said portion by irradiation thereof with microwave energy for a predetermined
10 length of time, and for discharging said heated one portion from said machine thereafter
11 by gravity;
12 ` changer means for receiving, counting, authenticating, and storing money
13 inserted into said machine, and for refunding counterfeit money inserted therein or
14 genuine money upon command; and
15 control and monitor means for:
16 receiving a signal from said changer means that a predetermined amount
17 of said authenticated money has been inserted into said machine;

18 actuating said dispenser means upon receipt of said signal to dispense
19 said one portion into said oven means; and
20 activating said oven means to receive, heat, and discharge said portion
21 from said machine.

22 wherein said dispenser means further comprise:

23 said hopper means including a lower, inverted frusto-pyramidal chamber having
24 a flat bottom with a generally semicircular opening therethrough guarded by a
25 quadrant-shaped closure and defining an inwardly flanged lip about said opening, said
26 opening having a diameter at least twice a largest dimension of one of said portions;
27 an upright conical member having a largest diameter about equal to that of said
28 semicircular opening, said member being positioned generally centered within said
29 chamber above and spaced apart from said opening;

30 a cylindrical pan having a diameter coextensive with said opening, an open top
31 in communicating engagement with said opening, a depth below said opening, and a
32 generally flat bottom having a quadrant shaped aperture therein in vertical alignment
33 with said quadrant-shaped closure defining a dispenser opening;

34 a shaft rotatably-mounted coaxially within said semicircular opening and
35 extending from above said opening, through said pan, to below said bottom of said pan;

36 a quartet of elongated rollers extending radially outward from said shaft in even
37 distribution within a common plane normal to said shaft and rotatably journaled thereon
38 for rolling movement of an outer portion of each said rollers upon an upper surface of
39 said flanged lip above said semicircular opening;

40 a paddle wheel having four paddles, each said paddle extending radially
41 outward from said shaft in alignment with one of said rollers and having a width and
42 radial extent sufficient to sweep substantially all of a quartic volume defined within said
43 pan between adjacent said paddles into alignment with said dispenser opening upon
44 successive 90° incremental rotations of said shaft; and

45 means for selectively rotating said shaft through said successive 90° incremental
46 rotations when actuated.

At claim 7, line 11, please delete "apparatus" and substitute in place
thereof --machine--.

1 ~~9 (Amended) The machine of claim 8, wherein said means for discharging~~
2 said heated one portion from said enclosure and out of said [apparatus] machine further
3 comprise:
4 [said enclosure being mounted for tilting movement about a horizontal axis to a
5 position wherein said enclosure opening faces generally downward to discharge said
6 one portion from said enclosure by gravity;
7 means for selectively tilting said enclosure about said horizontal axis to said
8 position; and]
9 means for catching and conveying said heated one portion from said enclosure
10 to an exterior opening in said machine.

1 ~~16. (Amended) The machine of claim 1, wherein said changer means further~~
2 comprises means for:
3 receiving a dollar bill into said machine;
4 comparing said bill electro-optically to an exemplar of predetermined authenticity
5 and amount;
6 rejecting said bill from said [apparatus] machine if said bill is not authentic or
7 correct in amount;
8 stacking said bill within said [apparatus] machine and [generated] generating
9 said signal to said control and monitor means if said bill is authentic and correct in
10 amount;
11 holding a stock of ordered coin within said [apparatus] machine; and

B 12 ~~ejecting a predetermined amount of said coin selectively from said [apparatus]~~

13 ~~machine upon command from said control and monitor means.~~

Please delete claim 18.

Please add new claims 19-21.

1 ~~--19. The machine of claim 1 wherein said oven means is rotatably~~

2 ~~journalized about a horizontal axis.~~

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1 20. The machine of claim 1 wherein said oven orientation means further
2 selectively rotates said oven means to a third position, intermediate said first and
3 second positions, for heating said one portion.

1 21. An automatic hot food vending machine, comprising in combination:
2 means for holding an inventory of portions of said food;
3 means for selectively dispensing one of said portions from said inventory by
4 gravity;
5 oven means pivotally mounted within said machine for receiving said one portion
6 from said dispenser means, for heating said portion by irradiation thereof with
7 microwave energy for a predetermined length of time, and for discharging said heated
8 one portion from said machine thereafter by gravity, said oven means having a single
9 door with an open position for both receiving said one portion from said dispenser
10 means and for discharging said heated one portion and a closed position for heating
11 said one portion;

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12 oven orientation means for selectively rotating said oven means between a first
13 position for receiving said one portion from said dispenser means and a second
14 position for discharging said heated one portion;
15 means for receiving, and authenticating ^{money} ~~money~~ inserted into said machine; and
16 control and monitor means for:
17 receiving a signal from said means for receiving and authenticating money
18 that a predetermined amount of authenticated money has been inserted into said
19 machine;
20 actuating said dispenser means upon receipt of said signal to dispense
21 said one portion into said oven means; and
22 activating said oven means to receive, heat, and discharge said portion
23 from said machine.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been examined. Applicant hereby amends claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 16. Claim 18 has been deleted and new claims 19-21 have been added.

The Examiner has stated that claims 2-6 and 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has hereby made appropriate amendments in accordance with the Examiner's remarks to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 2 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 as originally presented. Claims 3-6 and 12-15 are all dependent from claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 2-6 and 12-15 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rubino. Rubino discloses a vending machine with a microwave oven. In Rubino's